

MEDIA RELEASE

Superannuation Slated To Be Slashed At Aurizon!

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Employees at Aurizon, who were already facing massive cuts in take home pay and sub inflation wage rises, are now to have their superannuation slashed.

This latest development arises out of Aurizon's decision to put a proposed Enterprise Agreement (EA) out to ballot after Unions rejected the company's last offer by applying for protected industrial action.

Secretary of The Services Union, Neil Henderson said in a move not previously mentioned by Aurizon, it also decided to shave 2.25 per cent of its contribution to employees' superannuation in the draft Agreement it is sending to ballot.

"This is a company that has not lost its moral compass; it actually never had one from the start," Mr Henderson said.

"It was a sell-out of Queensland then and has continued on the same track!"

"In the last four months Aurizon has announced the axing of 300 regional Queensland jobs, a first half profit increase of 52 per cent (\$281.5M) and complained that the system is broken in a dispute it is having with the Queensland Competition Authority."

"Employees have every reason to be sceptical when Aurizon talks about fair outcomes."

"At the same time as it is raking in the profits, Aurizon is telling its employees to tighten their belts and that they should only be looking for wage increases of between 1 and 1.75 per cent over the life of a three year agreement."

"Wage increases at this level would deliver a cut to real wages with regard to the current rate of inflation," Mr Henderson said.

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Aurizon's argument with the Queensland Competition Authority is complex but it would seem both appear to be in agreement that the Wage Price Index for 2018 is 2.25 per cent and 2.5 per cent for the 2019 financial year.

With the Wage Price Index being a measure of inflationary pressure on wages and salaries likely to occur in a particular period, it is evident that the anticipated wage cost increase is more than twice what Aurizon is offering its workforce for the same period.

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"How can Aurizon's economic advisers anticipate that what will happen to wages be so starkly different from what Aurizon is offering its own workforce?" Mr Henderson said.

"The simple answer is that the Wage Price Index is what Aurizon will use to justify the price it is prepared to pay for access to the track."

"Aurizon will gain a benefit by agreeing with the Queensland Competition Authority that its wage costs will go up while at the same time doing everything in its power to drive down wage costs and cut entitlements."

"If that is what is happening then Aurizon is right, the rules are broken; just like the broken industrial system that Aurizon is happy to try and profit from," Mr Henderson said.

Next week, the Aurizon workforce will have the chance to vote to reject a pay deal that does more to keep money out of employees pockets than put any in.

Following this, many Aurizon employees will have the opportunity to start bargaining with the company by accessing industrial action.